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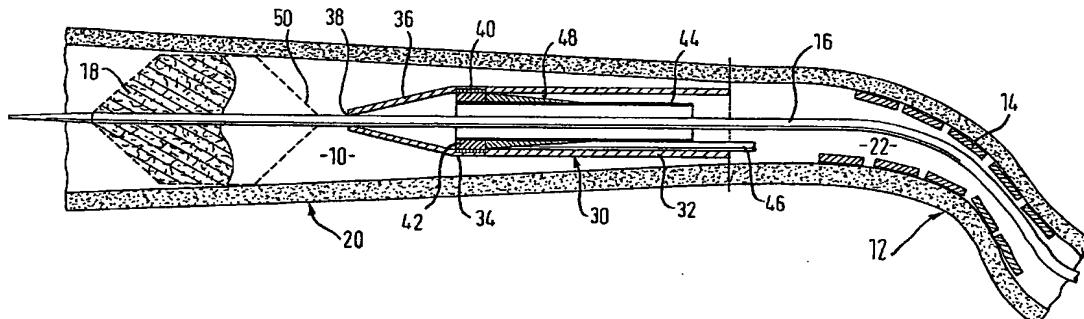
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(54) Title: RETRIEVAL CATHETER



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(57) Abstract: A retrieval catheter (30) for retrieving from a bodily lumen a device (48) attached to the distal end of a pull line (16), the catheter having a wall (32) that defines a catheter lumen (22) and a distal tip (36) that is tapered towards an open distal orifice (38) that defines the distal end of the lumen, the wall over the length of said tapered tip being distensible to allow the orifice to expand, the catheter having: a distender within the lumen that can be urged distally along the lumen such that the distender presses radially outwardly the catheter wall within the distal tip, so as to distend said orifice; the distender having a distal end annulus and a proximal end annulus (42) separated by a radially outward-facing circumferential wall and an axial lumen extending through the distender between said distal and proximal annuli; a pusher shaft (46) that extends from the distender proximally along the catheter lumen to proximally beyond the proximal end of the catheter lumen and that is arranged to push the distender distally until the distal end annulus is distal of the catheter distal orifice and the open distal orifice of the catheter is distended; whereby, with said pull line extending from the device to be retrieved through the lumen of the distender and the lumen of the catheter, the device can be pulled proximally by the pull line relative to the catheter until at least the most proximal part of the device slides over the distal end annulus of the distender into the lumen of the distender.